BIBLE PICTURES
and THEIR STORIES

by SUSANNA G. FISHER

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FOREWORD

Dear Children:

The Bible has many beautiful stories for children, as well as for grown-ups. Here are a few in shortened form, with pictures about them.

We hope you will like these stories and will want to read them in full for yourself in the Bible.

Besides telling you all about Abraham and Joseph and David and Elijah and many other heroes, and most of all about Jesus, the Bible will tell you how you may grow up, perhaps to be a hero yourself, or at least to be a good, brave, and true man or woman.

THE AUTHOR.

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Bible Pictures and Their Stories

Abram Goes to Egypt

Long ago in a far-away land lived a small boy named Abram. His father had cows, goats, donkeys, horses and camels, and Abram played among the animals.

Abram must have been the right kind of a boy, for he grew up to be a good man, and always wanted to do as God said.

Abram had more animals than his father had. When rain failed, and there wasn't food enough for his cattle, he and Sarah, his wife, their helpers, the animals, and tents went down to the land of Egypt.

Because Abram was a good man, obeyed the laws of God and dealt justly with everybody, God blessed him and he prospered. God made

an agreement with Abram telling him that his children after many generations would be more in number than the grains of sand on the seashore or the stars in the sky, and promised to give Abram's children the land of Canaan where they might live. Abram believed in God and had faith in his promises. God changed his name from Abram to Abraham, which means 'the father of many.'

In Egypt a big river called the Nile waters the land and makes the crops grow. Here is a picture of the bank of the river, and a man on a camel, as Abram must have ridden. In the background you will see some curious buildings, pyramids they are called. They were built a very long time ago.

(*Genesis* 12:10)

ABRAM ENTERING EGYPT. Gen. 12 : 10.

Abram and Sarah

Abram and Sarah didn't live in a house as we do but in a tent. They had very many cattle and had to travel about wherever there was good grass for the cattle to eat. Then the tents were taken down and put on the backs of camels.

One day some men came to Abram's tent. They were hot and thirsty and hungry. Abram was very kind. He told them to sit down under a tree, while he and Sarah got ready a nice dinner for them. Abram brought meat for Sarah, his wife, to cook, and she baked cakes, something like the biscuits that mother makes.

Abram and Sarah wanted more than anything else a little boy of their own. Before the three strangers went away they told Abram that God was going to give him and Sarah a dear little baby boy. This made them both very happy.

(*Genesis* 18:9)

ABRAM AND SARA. Gen. 18 : 9.

Isaac's Servant Meets Rebekah

Rebekah was a beautiful young woman, and every day she went to the well to draw water for the family. One day when she came to the well she saw some men and ten camels waiting. When she had filled her pitcher, the leader of the men asked for a drink.

Rebekah at once gave him a drink and offered to draw water for the camels.

When the man found out her name he told her he had come from her Uncle Abram, and he gave her gold bracelets and earrings. Then Rebekah's brother invited him home, and had a feast for him and his men.

The man said Abram had sent him to look for a wife for Abram's son Isaac. He asked Rebekah if she would go and be a wife to Isaac. She said, "I will go."

So she rode away on a camel and was married to Isaac.

(*Genesis* 24:17)

ISAAC'S SERVANT MEETING REBEKAH. Gen. 24 : 17.

Joseph in His Father's Tent

Jacob had twelve sons. He gave Joseph, who was the second youngest, a beautiful coat of many colors. Joseph's brothers were jealous because their father loved Joseph best.

One day when they were away from home taking care of the cattle, Jacob sent Joseph to see how they were. When they saw Joseph they decided to do away with him. So they sold him to some travelers who were going to Egypt a long way off, and let their father think a wild animal had killed him.

Joseph always tried to do what was right, and he prayed to God to help him. After a while he became a great and rich man in that far away country.

Years passed. When his brothers came to buy food for themselves and their cattle, he loved them and forgave them. When Jacob found Joseph was alive he was very happy. And all the family went to live with Joseph in Egypt.

(*Genesis* 37:13)

JOSEPH IN HIS FATHER'S TENT. Gen. 37 : 3.

The Call of Samuel

A dear little baby boy had come to Hannah and her husband. Hannah had prayed for him and had promised to give him to God. When the boy Samuel was old enough, Hannah took him to the temple to be trained by Eli the priest, so that he could tell the people about God.

One night when Samuel was in bed a voice called, "Samuel." He thought Eli called, and went to him. Eli said, "No I didn't call. Go back to bed." Again Samuel heard the voice, and again he went to Eli. A third time the call came, and Eli knew then that it was God calling Samuel. So he said, "Go back to bed, and if you hear the voice again say, 'Speak Lord.' " Samuel did as he was told. God then gave him a message.

Many times after that God talked to him, and he served God all his life.

(*I Samuel* 3:16)

ELI AND THE BOY SAMUEL. 1st Samuel 3 : 16.

The Shepherd Boy Who Loved Music

David was a shepherd boy who took care of his father's sheep. When a lion and a bear tried to attack them he killed these wild beasts. David was very brave, but besides being brave he was good and kind, and tried to do what was right.

The boy was very fond of music and often when he watched the sheep he would play on his harp. He wrote many beautiful hymns, and I think when he lay out on the fields by day or by night he often sang these hymns to God and played on his harp. He made such beautiful music that the king heard of it, and asked David to come and play for him.

But it wasn't always a happy time for David. The king became jealous and tried to kill him. But after a while when the king died David became king himself.

(*I Samuel* 16:18)

DAVID, THE SHEPHERD AND HARPIST. 1st Samuel 18 : 10.

The Lord Is My Shepherd

When you were a tiny child perhaps you played with a pretty woolly toy lamb. But the real lambs are much bigger and nicer, larger a great deal than pussy, and they say, "Baa, baa," when they want anything, and frolic about playfully.

They need very much care, for they are small and helpless. The shepherd who minds the little lambs loves them dearly and watches them carefully. He leads them and their mothers to places where there is nice grass for them to eat and streams of cool water to drink, and green fields where they can lie down and rest. Even though fierce wolves should come, the shepherd is brave and will not let them hurt the little lambs.

Long ago a man named David wrote a beautiful hymn called "The Lord Is My Shepherd." Jesus is called the Good Shepherd, because He loves and helps little children.

(*Psalm* 23)

THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD. Psalms 23 : 3.

The Widow Feeds Elijah

Elijah was a great preacher who lived long ago. There was a famine in the land; that means the crops had failed and there wasn't food enough for every one. Elijah was hungry and thirsty. He had no food left. So God told him what to do.

Outside the city a woman was gathering some wood, and he asked her to give him a drink of water and something to eat. She said she had only some olive oil and a little meal left, enough to make bread for her son and herself, and she was gathering wood to make a fire and cook it.

Elijah told her God had sent him to her, and that if she would do as he asked, there would be food enough for all of them.

The woman believed Elijah, made the bread, and shared it with him. And God made the meal last until rain came.

(*I Kings* 17:10)

ELIJAH AND THE WIDOW OF ZAREPHATH. 1st Kings 17 : 10.

Elijah and His Servant on Mount Carmel

After Elijah left the widow woman who had been so kind to him, God told him He was going to send rain. Elijah climbed up Mount Carmel and sat down and prayed for rain. He believed what God had promised. He called his servant and told him to go and look toward the sea. The servant came back and said he could see nothing.

"Go again," said Elijah.

He went again and saw nothing. Then he went five more times, and on the seventh time he said, "I see a cloud like a man's hand."

"Go tell the King," said Elijah, "that it is going to rain very heavily."

The little cloud grew larger and larger and got very black. Soon the whole sky was dark, and rain poured in torrents.

The people were so glad, because they knew that God, who sends us all good things, had remembered them.

(*I Kings* 18:43-44)

ELIJAH AND HIS SERVANT ON MOUNT CARMEL. 1st Kings 18 : 43.

Nearing Bethlehem

A wonderful secret had come to Mary. It was told her by an angel. Mary was a beautiful girl living in Nazareth in the Holy Land. The angel said, "God is going to give you a little baby to bring up for Him. He will be God's own Son. You must call Him Jesus."

Mary was very happy. But she and Joseph, her husband, had to travel a long way first to the town of Bethlehem. When they arrived there was no room for them. The hotels were all full with crowds of people.

Mary was tired and night was coming on. The only place they could find was in a stable. And there, among the cattle, the most wonderful baby in the whole world was born.

Mary had no fine clothes for Him. She wrapped Him in swaddling clothes, strips of linen, and laid Him in a manger.

(*Luke* 2:4)

NEARING BETHLEHEM. St. Luke 2 : 4.

Angels Tell the Good News

It was night in Judæa. Some shepherds were lying out of doors under the stars, watching their sheep. Suddenly a bright light from the skies shone on them, and an angel appeared. They were very frightened. What could it all mean? But the angel told them not to be afraid. He had come to bring them good news, the best news in all the world. For that day, he said, a baby was born in Bethlehem, who would bring joy for all people. And the angel told them how they would find the baby in a manger.

Then a number of other angels appeared, and they sang "Glory to God." The shepherds listened in wonder, and when the angels were gone they talked a great deal about what they had heard, and said "Let us go and see this baby who is to be a Saviour for all the world."

(*Luke* 2:10)

THE ANGELS ANNOUNCE THE BIRTH OF JESUS TO THE SHEPHERDS.
St. Luke II : 10.

The Shepherds See the Baby Jesus

After the shepherds had heard the angels' message, they left their sheep and hurried away to Bethlehem. When they came there they found Joseph, Mary and the baby, just as the angels had said, and all around them, the cattle, and horses and sheep.

Mary had made a bed for the baby on the hay in the manger. The shepherds entered in wonder, and told Mary and Joseph all about how the angels had sent them, and they worshipped the Child.

Then they went away, back to their sheep, and as they went they told every one they met about the angels and the good news that a baby was born who would grow up to be a wonderful man, and would help every one who believed on Him to do right.

They were very happy to have heard such wonderful news.

(*Luke* 2:16)

THE SHEPHERDS WORSHIP THE INFANT CHRIST. St. Luke 2 : 16.

Following the Star

Long ago in a far away Eastern country there were some wise men who believed that God was going to send a little baby who would grow to be the best man in the whole world and would help every one who tried to be good too.

One night these men saw a wonderful new star, very bright and beautiful. They believed at once that this star pointed them to where the baby was. So they set out on their camels. They traveled a long way. It was very hot and dusty and tiresome, but they kept on until they came to the town of Bethlehem. The star seemed to shine right down on the place where the child was. They went in. There they found Joseph and Mary and the baby Jesus. They worshipped Him and gave Him presents of gold, frankincense, a valuable perfume, and myrrh.

(*Matthew* 2:2)

WISE MEN FOLLOWING THE STAR. St. Matthew 2 : 2.

The Flight into Egypt

Joseph and Mary and the Baby did not live long in Bethlehem. Herod, the king of that country, was very jealous. He had heard of the wonderful Baby who, people said, was to be king of the Jews. And as Herod was king himself, he didn't want anyone else to take his place. So he determined to kill this Baby.

One night God spoke to Joseph in a dream and said, "Arise and take Mary and the Child and go into the land of Egypt, for Herod wants to kill Jesus." So Joseph got up at once, though it was night, and woke Mary, and told her what God had said.

Mary and Joseph made haste, and got ready. Joseph saddled the donkey and put Mary on it, and he walked beside them.

It took them days and days, but at last they reached Egypt, and were quite safe from the wicked king.

(*Matthew* 2:14)

THE FLIGHT INTO EGYPT. Matthew 2 : 14.

Jesus the Carpenter

Joseph was a carpenter, so when Jesus was big enough to handle the tools, he worked to help his father and mother and his brothers and sisters. His brothers' names were James, Joses, Jude and Simon.

Wouldn't it be nice if we could know all about what Jesus did when He was a small boy? What games He played? What work He did? What kind of school He went to? But we do know He always played fair. He never cheated either in school or play; and He always did His work well. No doubt he learned to make yokes for oxen, and knew how yokes should fit so as not to hurt the animals. "My yoke is easy," He said when He was older and preached to the people.

Whatever Jesus' parents asked Him to do, he did at once. And as He grew up every one loved Him.

(*Matthew* 13:55)

CHRIST, THE CARPENTER. St. Matthew 13 : 55.

Jesus in the Synagogue

When Jesus was twelve years old, Mary and Joseph took Him to the Temple in Jerusalem; that was the big church where all the people went yearly to worship God. It was a long journey, and many people traveled together; some rode donkeys, some walked.

Jesus must have been happy to be going to see His "Father's house." He was so interested that somehow when the people started home, he was left behind.

Mary and Joseph thought he was among the crowd, and traveled some time before they found he wasn't there. Then they returned to Jerusalem, looking for Him. They found Him in the Temple, talking to the wise men and asking questions.

Mary said, "Why did you stay behind?" But Jesus wondered that they didn't know He must do His Father's work first.

(*Luke* 2:46)

THE BOY JESUS IN THE SYNAGOGUE.

The Sermon on the Mount

Jesus had twelve particular friends called disciples. He taught them, so that when He was gone they could teach others.

One day He sat on the side of a mountain and told them about people who are really happy, or blessed. He said the people who are gentle and mild are blessed. Blessed are the people who want very much to be good, who hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled. The people who are kind, or merciful will receive kindness. The peacemakers are blessed, for they shall be called children of God. Sad people too will be blessed: they shall be comforted. The best of all are the people who are pure in heart, who keep only good thoughts and always try to do right, for they shall see God, shall know Him in their hearts.

This beautiful talk is called the Sermon on the Mount.

(*Matthew* 5, 6, 7)

THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT. St. Matthew 5, 6, 7.

The Parable of the Sower

Jesus told the people many beautiful stories —parables they were called. He told them of a man who sowed seed. The picture shows how it was done.

Some seed fell on rocky ground, and there wasn't enough earth for it to take root. Some fell among thorns, and the thorns crowded out the tiny plants. Some fell on the road and the birds ate it up. But the seed that fell in good ground grew up and made a splendid crop.

Jesus explained the meaning of this parable. The good seed is what God tells you in your heart to do. The rocky ground means the hearts that do not care to do what is right. The thorns are things which turn your thoughts away from God's will. The birds are the evil spirit that takes away what is good. The good ground means the people who love God's will and do it.

(*Matthew* 13:18)

THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER. St. Matthew 13 : 18,

Children Come to Jesus

One day Jesus was talking with His friends, those who followed Him and tried to do what He told them. Some mothers brought their little children to Jesus for Him to bless them. The disciples did not like this. They wanted Jesus to send the mothers and the children away. But Jesus said "Let the little children come to Me." He says it today too. And He took them up in His arms and blessed them.

Jesus must have been very fond of little children, for He spoke so often about them. He said no one should hurt a little child.

How happy those children were whom He blessed! I think they would always remember how gently He lifted them up, and how lovingly He looked at them and what kind words He said.

Though children cannot see Jesus now, He still blesses them just as He did long ago.

(*Luke* 18:16)

"SUFFER LITTLE CHILDREN TO COME UNTO ME." St. Luke 18 : 16

Christ Preaching by the Sea

Another day Jesus was talking to a great number of people. They had been listening for a long time. Evening was coming, and they were hungry. Jesus said to His disciples "Give them something to eat."

There were no stores near, and even if there had been, it would have taken a great deal of money to buy food for the hundreds of people.

A boy among the crowd had five loaves and two fishes, and these were brought to Jesus.

Jesus told His disciples to make the people sit down. Then He took the bread and the fish, and looking up to heaven, blessed them, and broke them into portions. His disciples passed the food to the people, and every one was satisfied.

Don't you think that the boy who had the loaves and fishes was very happy, because so many people had been fed by his food when it was blessed by Jesus?

(*John* 6:1-14)

CHRIST PREACHING BY THE SEA. St. Matthew 13 : 1.

A Young Man Brought to Life

A poor widow's only son had died. The widow was very sad, and many of her friends grieved with her. The body of the young man was being carried to the grave when Jesus and his disciples and a crowd of people came along to the gate of the city. The town was called Nain.

When Jesus saw the people crying He was very sorry for them, and He said "Weep not." Then He touched the bier on which the body was lying, and the people who carried it stood still.

Jesus said, "Young man I say unto thee arise." The life came again into the body, and the young man sat up and began to talk.

How happy his mother was as she took him home with her! And the people were all amazed, and they praised God for sending Jesus to help those who were sick or in trouble.

(*Luke* 7:14)

RAISING THE WIDOW'S SON. St. Luke 7 : 14.

Jesus Quiets the Sea

Several of Jesus' disciples were fishermen and lived near a lake called the Sea of Galilee. Jesus often went with them in their boats, and sometimes He told them how to catch more fish.

One day when He was asleep in the boat a great storm came up. The waves washed over the deck of the boat and it tossed up and down. The disciples were very frightened. They thought they were going to be drowned. They woke Jesus up, and told Him they were in great danger. Jesus spoke to the sea and soon it was quite still. Then He asked his friends not to be afraid.

The disciples were amazed. They loved Jesus, but they didn't know then that He was God's own Son. And they wondered how any man could make the rough sea calm and still. It was a long time afterward before they understood this.

(*Mark* 4:39)

CHRIST STILLS THE TEMPEST. Mark 4 : 39.

Peter Finds the Tribute Money

Jesus and His disciples were at a town called Capernaum, near the Sea of Galilee. He had been telling them that He would be killed and would rise from the dead. They were very sorrowful, and didn't understand at the time.

Then the tax-gatherer came along, and asked Peter, one of the disciples, if Jesus would pay the tax. Peter said, "Yes." Then he went into the house to Jesus and told him.

Jesus said He did not want to cause trouble to the man who was gathering the tax money: so He told Peter to take his fishing line and go to the seashore and cast it into the sea.

Peter did at once what Jesus told him to do. And in the mouth of the first fish he caught he found a piece of money, as Jesus had said, and with this he paid the tax for both of them.

(*Matthew* 17:27)

PETER AND THE TRIBUTE MONEY. St. Matthew 17 : 27.

A Drink of Cold Water

When you are hot and thirsty how glad you are to get a nice cool drink of water! Perhaps all you have to do is to turn a spigot. Or perhaps someone brings you a drink from the pump.

But in the Holy Land, where Jesus lived, water was harder to get. It is a very hot country, and sometimes it is very dry, and people need to drink quite often.

This man in the picture is a water carrier. Hanging from a strap around his shoulders is a water-skin full of water. He goes about and sells water to people who want it. See how dry and warm the city looks with its high walls and no shade trees.

Water is very precious there. And that is why Jesus said that any one who gave a cup of cold water in His name would be rewarded.

(*Matthew* 10:42)

THE WATER CARRIER.

The Road Christ Traveled to Jerusalem

A great many people were in Jerusalem to keep the Passover, a religious feast of the Jews. When they heard that Jesus was coming too they went out to meet Him, carrying branches of palm and calling out "Hosanna," or "Praise God," "Blessed is He that cometh."

The people in that country use donkeys a great deal, and for long journeys they often use camels. On this day Jesus came, riding on a donkey. And as the people went to meet Him they waved the palms and sang praises, and some of them spread their coats on the road for Him to pass over.

When Jesus reached the temple in Jerusalem the little children too sang praises. This made the enemies of Jesus angry, and they wanted Him to stop the children singing. But Jesus would not do that. He was always the friend of little children.

(*John* 12:12)

THE ROAD CHRIST TRAVELED TO JERUSALEM. St. John 12 : 12-13.

The Last Supper

Jesus and His disciples were gathered around a table for the last supper they would all have together. They did not know then that it would be the last, but Jesus knew, and He was very sorrowful. But the reason He was sorrowful was because He knew that one of His twelve friends was going to be false to Him. Jesus said, "One of you shall betray me."

The enemies of Jesus had offered money to Judas Iscariot, one of the disciples, if he would betray Jesus. Judas cared more for money than anything else.

Then each one began to ask Jesus, "Is it I, Lord?" John, who leaned on Jesus' breast and whom Jesus loved very much asked who it was. Jesus said, "The one to whom I shall give a sop," or piece of bread; and He gave the sop to Judas. This made the other disciples very sad.

(*John* 13:21)

THE LAST SUPPER. St. Luke 22 : 15.

Washing the Disciples' Feet

Jesus and His twelve disciples were gathered together in an upper room, where they had eaten their supper.

Jesus rising took a basin of water and a towel and started to wash the feet of His disciples. When He had washed the feet of all of them He said that if He who was their Master had washed their feet, they ought also to be willing to wash one another's feet.

This lesson in humility was given to the disciples so that they would understand their relationship to one another more readily; for He says, "I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you.—If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them."

(*John* 13 : 15-17)

CHRIST WASHING THE DISCIPLES FEET. St. John 13 : 4–5.

The Resurrection

Jesus' enemies took Him after Judas had betrayed Him, and killed Him cruelly. The disciples and the women who loved Him so much were very sad indeed.

Jesus was buried in a cave, called a sepulchre, cut in the rock. Early on the first day of the week, the women went to the sepulchre to put spices and perfumes on Jesus' body, as people did then. When they came there the big stone outside had been rolled away, so they went in. But the body of Jesus was gone, and an angel said to them, "He is risen."

The women were very happy and hurried away to tell His disciples. Jesus met one of them on the way and afterwards appeared to His disciples.

And now anyone who really loves Jesus should not be afraid of death, for He has gone before to prepare a place for us.

(*John* 20:11-12)

THE RESURRECTION. St. John 20 : 11–12.

Paul Becomes a New Man

Paul was a young Jew who had never met Jesus, and didn't know what was true about Him. He was very angry with the followers of Jesus and wanted to put them in prison and to have them killed perhaps. He didn't know what splendid men and women they were.

So Paul started for Damascus, planning to hunt out the Christians he could find there. As he was on the way suddenly a bright light shone on him, so bright he couldn't see, and he fell to the ground.

He heard a voice saying, "Why do you persecute me?" and he asked, "Who are you?" The voice said, "I am Jesus."

Then Paul was told what he should do. When he had done it he soon was able to see all right again.

He became a great preacher, one of the greatest in the world, and traveled far, telling people about Jesus.

(*Acts* 9:4)

THE CONVERSION OF PAUL. Acts 9 : 4.

Paul and Silas in Prison

When Paul learned to love Jesus he was willing to do anything for Him. If you love Mother very much—really love her—you know how glad you are to work for her. That was the way Paul felt toward Jesus.

The men who ruled the country were very cruel to the friends of Jesus, and wanted to kill them. They knew if people followed Jesus they wouldn't worship the foolish idols made of wood and stone. These enemies caught Paul and his companion, Silas, and put them in prison. And what do you think Paul and Silas did? They sang praises to God there in that cruel prison. And God was watching over them. About midnight an earthquake shook the prison doors open. The jailer was frightened. But when Paul and Silas talked to him about Jesus, he said he would follow Jesus too. That made them very happy.

(*Acts* 16:29)

PAUL AND SILAS IN JAIL AT PHILIPPI. Acts 16 : 29.

John's Wonderful Vision

John was one of Jesus' dearest friends. He traveled about a great deal with Jesus, and was with Him at the cross and until Jesus went back into heaven. Then John took care of Mary, Jesus' mother. And he wrote a beautiful account of Jesus, which you will find in the Bible. It is called the Gospel of John. He wrote besides three splendid letters, also in the Bible. The last book of the Bible too was written by John. It is called Revelation. When John wrote it he was on a lonely island named Patmos. He was away from his friends, and must have been thinking a great deal about Jesus, as he always was. Then he wrote this vision he had of what was going to happen, and a dream too of what heaven is like, beautiful, with no pain, sorrow or evil, and every one there is happy.

(*Revelation* 21:2)

JOHN ON THE ISLAND OF PATMOS. Rev. 21 : 2.

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